

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

INFO AMCONSUL ST JOHNS

UNCLAS STATE 003281

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:MARR, CA

SUBJECT: US DECISION ON FUTURE USE OF GOOSE BAY

REF: STATE 284308

1. DEPARTMENT HAS TRANSMITTED TO CANADIAN EMBASSY ON JANUARY 5 REPLY TO CANADIAN AIDE MEMOIRE ON FUTURE US PLANS FOR GOOSE BAY (SEE REFTEL). TEXT OF OUR REPLY IS AS FOLLOWS:

2. "THE CANADIAN EMBASSY'S AIDE-MEMOIRE OF DECEMBER 1, 1975 REQUESTED INFORMATION REGARDING THE FUTURE UNITED STATES MILITARY PRESENCE AT GOOSE BAY AIRPORT IN NEW-FOUNDLAND IN THE LIGHT OF THE DECISION TO INACTIVATE THE STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND WING HEADQUARTERS PRESENTLY AT GOOSE BAY.

3. "THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS REVIEWED ITS STRATEGIC REQUIREMENTS FOR AN AIRCRAFT SUPPORT BASE AT GOOSE BAY AIRPORT, LABRADOR. OUR REASSESSMENT HAS CONCLUDED THAT SUCH A REQUIREMENT CONTINUES TO EXIST AND THE USAF WISHES UNCLASSIFIED

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TO RETAIN AN OPERATIONAL PRESENCE AT GOOSE BAY. THE INTENT

OF THIS DECISION HAS BEEN COMMUNICATED TO CANADIAN

OFFICIALS DURING THE COURSE OF THE 141ST MEETING OF  
THE PERMANENT JOINT BOARD ON DEFENSE IN WASHINGTON ON  
DECEMBER 17, 1975 AND HAS BEEN MADE A PART OF THE RECORD  
OF THAT MEETING.

4. "IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING DECISION, THE US WISHES TO  
ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GOC IN THE VERY NEAR  
FUTURE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THE NATURE AND TERMS OF AN  
OPERATIONAL PRESENCE AT GOOSE BAY FOR DAY-TO-DAY TRANSIENT  
USE AND AS A BASE OF OPERATIONS TO SUPPORT NATO AND NORAD  
CONTINGENCY REQUIREMENTS. THE ALREADY-ANNOUNCED AGREEMENT  
BY THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT TO THE CONTINUED USAGE OF GOOSE  
BAY BY US FORCES IS APPRECIATED.

5. "THE SCOPE AND FORMAT OF THE FUTURE US PRESENCE AT  
GOOSE BAY HAS NOT BEEN FINALLY DETERMINED. ALTHOUGH THE  
STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND WING WILL BE WITHDRAWN, THE US  
ANTICIPATES A CONTINUING REQUIREMENT FOR CANADIAN WORKERS  
AT THE BASE, BUT IN SUBSTANTIALLY DECREASED NUMBERS. AN  
ECONOMIC ANALYSIS IS BEING CONDUCTED OF SEVERAL OPTIONS  
TO SATISFY SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS, ALL OF WHICH WOULD PRO-  
VIDE SUITABLE DIRECT OR INDIRECT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR CANADIAN WORKERS.

6. "TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF A FUTURE USAF OPERATIONAL  
PRESENCE WOULD INVOLVE A CLOSE MILITARY SUPPORT RELATION-  
SHIP WITH CANADIAN FORCES AND THE UNITED KINGDOM ROYAL  
AIR FORCE. LIKEWISE, THE EXISTING SUPPORT RELATIONSHIP  
WITH THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT UNDER THE GOOSE BAY AIRPORT  
FACILITIES AGREEMENT, WHICH WILL EXPIRE JUNE 30, 1976,  
MIGHT BE CONTINUED IN PART. REPRESENTATION IN THE PRO-  
SPECTIVE NEGOTIATIONS BY ALL OF THE CANADIAN AGENCIES  
HAVING AN INTEREST IN GOOSE BAY WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL."

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## Message Attributes

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